Decline in Tourist inflow from Germany and U.S.A.

766. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is decrease in the inflow of tourists from countries such as Germany and the United States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether tourist offices abroad could help in fetching more tourists; and

(d) the steps proposed to promote tourism abroad with more sincerity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) There is no decrease in the flow of tourist from United States in 1998. The traffic from Germany showed decline in 1998.

(b) Some of the factors adversely affecting traffic from Germany reported to be adverse reaction to India's nuclear test, rising trend of regional travel rather than long haul destinations, availability of international air seats during peak seasons etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Various steps proposed to promote tourism abroad include more focus on marketing coverage, use of information technology for dissemination of tourist information, promoting India as a tourist destination through organising seminars, workshops, road shows, etc. and developing joint promotion programmes with the travel industry.

Development of Tourism in North-Eastern States

767. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the up-dated measures of Tourism development in the North-Eastern Region on State-wise basis;

(b) the details of income from tourism for each state of North-Eastern Region during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the names of Airports of the North-East where Central Tourists' Information Centres are to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Projects/schemes are prioritised for development of tourism in the North-Eastern Regions in consultation with State Govts. The Ministry of Tourism has taken following measures:—

(1) In the current year, 149 projects/schemes have been identified for an amount of Rs. 3650.09 Lakhs for development of tourism in this region.

(2) 10% of the Plan Budget of the Ministry of Tourism is earmarked for development of Tourism in the North-Eastern Region.

(3) A chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management has recently been opened at Guwahati.

(4) A full fledged Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology at Shillong has been sanctioned.

(5) North-Eastern States are given a free booth in World largest tourism fair ITB-Berlin.

(b) Tourism being a multi-sectoral activity, it is not possible to quantify income derived therefrom for each state. During the year 1998-99, the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism were to the tune of Rs. 12011.46 crores for the country;

(c) There is no proposal to open new Central Tourists' Information Centres at the Airports in North-East by the Ministry of Tourism.

Performance of Tourist Offices Abroad

768. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 17 people from Buenos Aires visited India last year despite huge tourist office complex in Argentina last year;

(b) whether the money spent on tourist offices abroad commensurate with foreign exchange earnings from tourists; and